TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The major works being undertaken on NH 39 and 53 are for improvement of riding quality, strengthening, reconstruction/rehabilitation of bridges, etc. There is no National Highway No. 157 in the country.

(b) The development of National Highways is a continuous process. The works are taken up and completed keeping in view the *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds.

(c) The State PWDs of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Border Roads Organisation are the implementing agencies for the works on these National Highways.

Development of NH-47

5379. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Kerala for developing Sherthala-Trivandrum stretch of National Highways-47 to facilitate 4 lane traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake any developmental work of Kollam-Shenkottah National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The total length of Kollam-Shenkottah road (NH-208) is 81.25 Km. Improvement of the National Highway is being taken up in phases depending on traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Riding quality has been improved for an aggregate length of 32 Km. Further, work of improvement of riding quality and renewal of the payment surface is in progress in a total length of 27 Km. Besides, in the annual plan of 2002-03, there is a provision of Rs. 8 Crore for improvement of the riding quality and for improvement of geometrics in selected reaches of this National Highway.